

THE SPARK GAP

CLUB ELECTIONS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20th

Club officers will be elected this coming Saturday morning at the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The club officers will serve a one year term. This is a very important meeting for all club members to attend. The slate of officers are:

President – Jerry Schantz – W9JJS
Vice – President – Dave Dailey – KB9LOT
Secretary – Carol Osborne – KC9CFK
Treasurer – Ernest Clark – KB9SKI

Our officers have worked very hard this past year. Due to their efforts there have been club activities; improvements in the repeater; and obtaining tax exempt status.

Come and show your support for our club and it's officers.

..... Bob N9SIU

MARC ANNUAL PICNIC

On October 18th the annual picnic of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club will take place at the Johnson County Park in southern Johnson County. The picnic is being headed up J R Osborne, KB9HSE and he plans on making a good time for all that attend. An HF station will be set up at the park for all to use during the picnic. The newly elected club officers will assume their offices at that time.

There will be more details at the club meeting this Saturday morning at the club meeting.



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FCC Asks Power Company to Try Harder to Resolve Noise Complaints

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 11, 2003--The FCC has asked American Electric Power Company of Columbus, Ohio, to revisit several power line noise complaints and try harder to resolve them. The cases involve four Amateur Radio operators in Ohio, Indiana and Oklahoma.

FCC Part 15 rules classify most power lines and related equipment as "incidental radiators" and prohibit harmful interference to licensed services.

"While we certainly appreciate the considerable effort that AEP afforded

this matter, we are puzzled by the lack of results," FCC Special Counsel

Riley Hollingsworth wrote August 26 in a letter to AEP Senior Vice President Marsha P. Ryan. "In most cases, a noise source can be located easily by trained personnel using the proper equipment."

AEP responded February 10 to the FCC's initial correspondence regarding the four cases. Hollingsworth says, however, that follow-up reports from

the complainants suggest discrepancies exist between what AEP told the FCC and what the complainants report. Hollingsworth said evidence to date indicates that none of the cases has been resolved successfully even though each "has been ongoing for a considerable period of time--in

some cases for years."

In one case, AEP identified the amateur's own tower as the source of the noise.

Jerry Daugherty, W9FS, of South Bend, Indiana, told the FCC that he's heard nothing from AEP and was not even aware that the utility was considering his case closed. "As of June 20, 2003, the noise was present at VHF and coming from several different locations," Hollingsworth said, citing information from Daugherty.

James Kiskis, W8PA, of Gallipolis, Ohio, reported to the Commission that, although interference identified as coming from two utility poles was fixed, it has since returned from one of them. Kiskis told Hollingsworth that an AEP interference investigator showed up at his residence June 23 and--using a spectrum analyzer hooked up to Kiskis' antenna--found strong noise present at 14 and 28 MHz. The investigator reportedly told Kiskis that that he was turning his findings over to a line crew to have the problems repaired.

Using special equipment, ARRL RFI Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG, attempts to pin down the source of power line QRN that's been affecting Maxim Memorial Station W1AW.

William Hannon, N8PW, of Canton, Ohio, confirmed to the FCC that AEP had repaired several suspect utility poles, "including one very significant noise source," Hollingsworth said. But, he added in his letter to Ryan, Hannon "continues to experience strong noise in dry weather conditions when his antenna is pointed east."

Howard McCloud, KC5RGC, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, reported power line noise last April and identified its source for AEP as utility lines about a mile from his station. "Mr. McCloud is not aware that AEP has attempted to correct it," Hollingsworth wrote. "AEP now apparently maintains that the source of the noise is McCloud's antenna, even when it is disconnected and on the ground," a conclusion Hollingsworth labeled "patently defective." McCloud reports relatively strong noise on HF that continues 24/7.

Hollingsworth asked AEP to "revisit each of these cases" and to update the FCC within 45 days of any progress in each case. He also referred the power company to ARRL RFI Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG, for technical assistance in resolving the cases.

FCC Part 15 rules classify most power lines and related equipment as "incidental radiators." Section 15.5 requires that intentional, unintentional or incidental radiators cause no harmful interference.

Brian Murrey - KB9BVN
KB9BVN@arrl.net
Indiana Section Bulletin Manager
(317) 535-9887

IRCC OUTSTANDING AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

As summer slips into fall we are reminded of the annual honor of Picking the best candidate in Indiana for the IRCC Outstanding Amateur of the Year. Each year the Indiana Radio Club Council searches Hoosier ham clubs and organizations for the best of the best in amateur radio.

If you have someone in your organization that has gone above and beyond for amateur radio this past year, submit their name.

Send a detailed explanation on why this individual should be awarded The 2003 Outstanding Amateur of the Year award.

Deadline for nominations is Friday October 3, 2003.

The IRCC awards committee will pick the best candidate and they will be honored during a special ceremony at the Ft. Wayne Hamfest in November.

Send your nomination via email to: w8ish@arrl.net
or snail mail to: Jack Parker W8ISH, 6 Summit Ridge Ct. Greenwood,
IN 46142

Be sure to include an e-mail address or home address where the nominee may be reached.

Jack Parker W8ISH

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

September 27th, "Tailgate Hamfest" Shelbyville
Sponsored by the Blue River Amateur Radio Society

September 27th, Greenwood Marching Band Competition

October 18th, MARC annual club picnic at Johnson Co. Park

MARC Club Officers

PRESIDENT

Jerry Schantz – W9JJS
president@midstatehams.org

VICE-PRESIDENT

Dave Dailey – KB9LOT
vicepresident@midstatehams.org

TREASURER

Ernest Clark – KB9SKI
treasurer@midstatehams.org

SECRETARY

Carol Osborne – KC9CFK
secretary@midstatehams.org

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Matt Payne – KB9UJE
trustee@midstatehams.org

PUBLIC INFO

Leroy Perry – KB9ZLC
pio@midstatehams.org

VE COORDINATOR

Dave Wendt – KA9OOH
veteam@midstatehams.org

SUPPER GROUP

Joe Rogers – KF9LQ
supper@midstatehams.org

RACES DIRECTOR

Jay Chrisman – AA9YP
races@midstatehams.org

ARES

Jerry Schantz – W9JJS
ares@midstatehams.org

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Jack Parker – W8ISH
activities@midstatehams.org

SPARK GAP EDITOR

Bob LaGrange – N9SIU
editor@midstatehams.org

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets at 0800 EST the third Saturday of each month at the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center in the Emergency Operations Center. All hams are encouraged to attend this meeting and VE testing is held after the meeting has ended, January through November.

MARC operates the 146.835 (151.4 PL) repeater and all hams are welcome to use it.

For more information please visit our club web page at: <http://www.midstatehams.org>